

THE
Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE
Urban District of Amble
For the Year 1926.

MORPETH:

Printed by J. & J. S. Mackay, Bridge Street.

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1927.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
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URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLE
For the Year 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Amble Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in laying my Annual Report for 1926 before you.

You will note that the population of the Urban District is still slightly on the decrease. The estimates of the population as at 30th June of each year have been based on the adjusted 1921 (Census) figures after allowing for the varying rates of natural increase or decrease as evidenced by the Births and Deaths in the area and of migration as indicated from other sources of information, such as the changes in the numbers on the Electoral Register, etc.

The Vital Statistics are very satisfactory. The Birth-rate has increased to 22.7 per 1,000 (England and Wales 17.8) and the Death-rate has decreased to 8.45 per 1,000 (England and Wales 11.6). The Infant Mortality (under 1 year) is only 29.41 per 1,000 births and is the smallest I remember in Amble. The rate for England and Wales was 70.

The year has been memorable for the greatest coal trade dispute known.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Amble is a seaport town situated in the angle between the estuary of the River *Coquet* and the North Sea. The Urban District is flat and low-lying and has few trees. It is greatly exposed, especially to north-easterly winds.

The town is built of stone from local quarries.

Most of the men are employed as coal miners at the adjacent collieries of Newburgh and Broomhill, which are distant one and a half miles and three miles respectively from Amble.

Owing to the length of the coal dispute in 1926 there was a considerable amount of hardship and distress during the most of the year. This is reflected in the great increase in the amount of Poor Law Relief disbursed in the town.

There are a few fishermen.

The Amble Shipbuilding Yard was closed during the year and this caused further unemployment.

Coal, the only export, is shipped at Warkworth Harbour, the local port.

1.—General Statistics.

Area: 1,220 acres of land and inland water.

Population (1926): 4,492.

Number of inhabited houses (1921): 1,049.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921): 1,065.

Rateable Value: £17,882.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £60.

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

The amount of out-door relief expended in the Urban District for the year ended 31st December, 1926, was as follows:

In money ... £623 19 6 to ordinary paupers.

In kind ... £1,505 6 2 to ordinary paupers and to unemployed.

Total	<u>£2,129</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>
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2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1926.

				Total.	Males.	Females.	Total Births.
Births (Legitimate) ... ..	...	...	...	99	49	50	} 102
Births (Illegitimate) ... ..	...	...	...	3	...	3	
Birth-rate, 22.7 per 1,000.							
Deaths ... ..	...	...	...	38	16	22	
Death-rate, 8.45 per 1,000.							

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:

From Sepsis	Nil.
From other causes (Hyperemesis Gravidarum)	1

Death-rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :												
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29.41
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Total											...	29.41

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

BIRTH-RATE.

The Birth-rate in 1926 was 22.7 per 1,000. Registered births numbered 102 and of these three were illegitimate and 2.94 per cent. of the births registered. The Birth-rate for England and Wales during the same period was 17.8 per 1,000. The Birth-rate for Amble in 1925 was 19.6.

MORTALITY.

During 1926, 34 deaths were registered in the Urban District. There were six transferable deaths inward from other areas and two outward transferable deaths. The total net deaths numbered 38. Sixteen were males and 22 females.

They occurred throughout the year as follow :

January	...	...	5	May	...	...	3	September	...	3
February	...	...	2	June	...	...	5	October	...	5
March	...	...	3	July	...	...	3	November	...	4
April	...	...	1	August	...	...	3	December	...	1

The ages at death were as follow :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
1 and under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
2 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
5 and under 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
15 and under 25 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
25 and under 45 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
45 and under 65 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

The Death-rate for Amble was 8.45 per 1,000 as compared with that for England and Wales of 11.6.

INFANT MORTALITY (Under 1 Year).

There were three deaths of infants under one year, one male and two females. Two died at 1 day and 18 days respectively from Premature Birth; the third died at 1 month from Broncho-pneumonia. The following rates for Amble during the past ten years are given: 1917, 62.5; 1918, 90.9; 1919, 58.2; 1920, 40; 1921, 77.5; 1922, 105.2; 1923, 34.78; 1924, 88.23; 1925, 98.9; 1926, 29.41.

This rate of 29.41 is the smallest in Amble that I remember and compares favourably with that for England and Wales of 70 per 1,000 births registered during 1926.

In the following tables will be found the Birth and Death-rates, the ages at which death occurred and the principal causes of death during the last five years :

Year.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1922	4814	114	23.68	68	14.12
1923	4801	115	23.95	56	11.66
1924	4673	102	21.82	72	15.4
1925	4637	91	19.6	54	11.64
1926	4492	102	22.7	38	8.45
England and Wales.					
1926	—	—	17.8	—	11.6

THE AGES AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.

	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Total.
1922	12	6	3	2	5	2	15	23	68
1923	4	1	2	7	3	3	7	29	56
1924	9	4	4	4	4	3	17	27	72
1925	9	1	1	—	4	5	15	19	54
1926	3	5	4	—	2	7	5	12	38

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

	*Heart Disease.	Tuberculosis.	Cancer.	Pneumonia.	Whooping Cough.	Apoplexy.	Bronchitis.
1922	5	1	5	6	6	4	4
1923	3	7	5	—	—	4	3
1924	3	1	8	6	—	4	3
1925	10	3	9	5	—	5	1
1926	2	3	4	6	2	1	2

* Including Diseases of the Blood Vessels.

3.—Notifiable Diseases During the Year.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Treated at Home.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria.	6	6	nil.	nil.
Lobar Pneumonia.	2	2	nil.	2
Tuberculosis.	6	1	5	3
Erysipelas	1	1	nil.	nil.
Small Pox	6	nil.	6	nil.
Chicken Pox.	31	31	nil.	nil.

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES AND DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Age Group	Diphtheria		Small Pox		Lobar Pneumonia		Chicken Pox		Erysipelas	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
Under 1 year.							2	...		
2-5 years.	1	—					7	...		
5-10 years.	5	—	2	...			20	...		
10-15 years.	2	—	—	...	1	1	1	...		
15-20 years.			2	...	...	...	...	...
30-40 years.			1	...	...	...	1	...		
40-45 years.			1	...	...	...	...	...
60-65 years.					1	1	...	...	1	...
Totals.	6	—	6	...	2	2	31	...	1	...

The analysis of the cases of Tuberculosis will come under the head of "Tuberculosis" later in the report.

Diphtheria occurred principally towards the end of the year. Although the local lesions disappeared quickly under Antitoxin treatment, yet several cases had a prolonged convalescence due to nervous symptoms. There were no deaths caused by it during the year.

Chickenpox was of a mild type and attacked chiefly children of school age. Only one case occurred in an adult and it was with difficulty that a diagnosis excluding Smallpox could be made.

The Smallpox Hospital on the Links had to be opened for the reception of Smallpox patients. It is over 20 years since this hospital had been used previously. With so much Smallpox prevalent in the County and actually for some time in a neighbouring village about three miles away, preparations were made so that cases could be swiftly dealt with. The hospital itself was in good condition and it was thought better to buy bedding, sheets and blankets as required. This plan worked excellently in practice when the necessity arose. The first

patient was a male aged 16 years. He had not been out of the town at all, so that the only explanation of his contracting the disease was that some visitor for the day, with a mild attack, had been in the town and that he had, in some manner, become a contact. He became ill on 22nd February, rash came out 25th February, first noticed beside nose; he was all out the same day. As he felt better he went out. He was out every day and had visited the pictures twice before his condition became known to his doctor on 2nd March, in the evening. His family was vaccinated the next morning and the next day he was removed to hospital. As his mother was too nervous to stay at the Isolation Hospital with him, the whole family, viz., father, mother and sister were sent there. Food, fuel and light were supplied. All contacts were followed up and vaccinated and, as far as was known, no person took Smallpox from him in spite of his going about with the rash on him. It was of the usual mild type.

On the 15th March a man aged 32 years, donkeyman on board the s.s. *Amble*, arrived in port with his ship. The ship was sent to the Quarantine Dock and the patient removed to hospital two hours afterwards. All the contacts on board, the captain, officers and crew, 16 in all, were vaccinated the same afternoon and the ship disinfected. A child of this patient had been taken to hospital at South Shields suffering from Smallpox some little time before this man joined his ship. The remainder of the family were vaccinated at once, except the father. The reason why he was not vaccinated was that he was done in the Army (early 1915). It was noted that he had no vaccination scars on his arm.

No nurses were required at the hospital, as the family of the first patient were there and they attended to this man. When all were better and had left, the hospital was closed for about a week.

The third case was a lad aged 16 years. The date of onset of sickness was the 5th April and rash appeared on the 8th April; he was notified on the 12th April and removed to hospital the same day. His mother, who was vaccinated, went with him to the hospital and kept everything neat and tidy. His sister had been already vaccinated and his father was done and remained at work under observation until the period of incubation was over. The patient in hospital was able to go about and, after scabbing was completed, he was allowed to leave the hospital and it was closed at the end of April.

Three fresh cases were notified on the 5th July, all belonging to the same family, viz., the mother and two children aged 8 years and 5¼ years. The family consisted of the father and mother and six children. I vaccinated the father, the eldest boy aged 11 years and the baby aged 9 months and these eventually escaped infection. The second child aged nine years, vaccinated in March and showing

four marks on her arm, also escaped. The third and fourth child were infected and the fifth child, aged 3 years, had marks on her body showing that she recently had had Smallpox in a mild form. As they lived in a small two-roomed tenement it was thought best to send the lot to the hospital with the exception of the father. They made an uneventful recovery and left the hospital on 31st July. The hospital was then closed down and has not been required since.

It is interesting to note that five of these six cases had never been vaccinated even in infancy and that the sixth, although giving a history of having been vaccinated in the Army eleven years previously, showed no marks of vaccination, the presumption being that the vaccination for some reason had not taken and, as a result, he was not protected against Smallpox. It was fortunate that, owing to the fairly mild type of the disease, the patients were able to attend to themselves without discomfort and so saved the necessity of having a couple of nurses for those periods during which the hospital was open.

It is a pity that there is no hospital to which cases of other Infectious Diseases could be sent. In this day of motor transport one hospital could easily be central to a group of rural and district councils. At present patients with infectious diseases are isolated as strictly as possible in their own homes. Disinfectants are supplied free by the Council. When houses are free from infection they are disinfected by the Surveyor. Formalin vapour is used.

The town possesses a portable steam disinfector (*Newman*) by which infected and verminous clothing may be disinfected and disinfested.

SMALLPOX.

Six primary and 21 re-vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.			Deaths.	
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1—5 years	—	1	—	—
10—15 years	—	1	—	—
20—25 years	—	1	2	—
30-40 years	1	—	1	—
40-45 years	—	1	—	—
45-50 years	1	—	—	—
	2	4	3	—

Six new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year as shown in tabular form above. Three were male and three female. The anatomical regions attacked were the Lungs (2), Right Axillary Glands, Cervical Glands, Peritoneum, and Spine. Of the Pulmonary types one died and the other was doing badly at the end of the year. The two cases with Tuberculous Glands had them removed and did well after their operations, there being no recurrence at the end of the year. The other fatal case was that of a case notified as far back as 1923. She did well and was apparently cured; at least, the disease was quiescent. She got a chill last year, had a relapse and died in the middle of the summer.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register of the Medical Officer of Health at the 31st December, 1926, was as under :

			Males.		Females.
Pulmonary	...	...	3	...	2
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	2	...	2
			—		—
Total	...		5		4
			—		—

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no notifications or cases of this disease in Amble during 1926.

4.—Causes of Sickness.

There was no particular cause of sickness during the year with the exception of the coal dispute. There is no doubt that the privations caused by this unfortunate dispute had a decided effect on the health of the people. This will probably show itself more at the end of the winter in the early months of 1927. No cases of sickness were traced to the water, milk or food supply in the town.

5.—Summary (for Reference) of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and Other Institutions Available for the District.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL.—There is a Nursing Association in Amble affiliated to the Northumberland County Nursing Association. This local Association derives its funds from voluntary subscriptions. The Nurse principally does surgical work, e.g.; dressings, etc., and attends patients who require skilled attention, e.g., for prevention of bed sores. She also does a few maternity cases, but always with a doctor.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — There are no nursing arrangements for cases of Measles, Scarlet Fever, etc. The patient is nursed at his or her home by relatives under the direction of the doctor.

MIDWIVES.—There are no Midwives practising in the District.

CLINICS, ETC.—There are no Clinics in Amble. The School Doctor sends defective children for treatment to their family doctor.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants or homeless children in the district.

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Hospital Accommodation in Amble consists of one Isolation Hospital, situated on the Links. It is an iron building and has four beds. It was erected for the reception of Smallpox patients. It was used for the isolation and treatment of six patients in 1926. The Hospital was in good condition and was regularly inspected and aired.

No Hospital exists for other Infectious Diseases. There is no other Hospital in the district.

For Tuberculosis, Woolley Sanatorium is available through the County Council.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) FOR INFECTIOUS CASES. — There is no ambulance for infectious cases and none is at present required, as these cases are nursed at home.

(b) FOR NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES. — There is a Colliery Ambulance (Motor) stationed at Broomhill Colliery about three miles away, outside of the Amble Urban District. It is free to subscribers and a fee is charged to non-subscribers.

6.—Laboratory Work.

In cases of infectious disease, where necessary, preparations are examined for the Council at the Durham University College of Medicine Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne. The opportunity is afforded to all doctors practising in the district and is taken full advantage of by them. Diphtheria Antitoxin is stocked by the M.O.H. for the Urban Council and is supplied free to practitioners for use in cases which require it. It is promptly used in all cases of Diphtheria.

7.—Sanitary Administration.

ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL AND GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following Acts have been adopted by the Council:
Private Street Works Act.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts I and III).
 Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

No local Acts have been adopted.

WORK OF SANITARY OFFICIALS.

(a) The Report of the Surveyor for the year 1926 is appended.

(b) The Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1926 is appended.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

Thirteen ash closets and one privy midden were abolished and replaced by water closets. With the addition of two water closets for the two completed houses the number of new water closets in the town was brought up to 16.

In the district there were at the end of the year :

Fresh water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	511
Ash closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	397
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

The new reservoir will assure a constant supply to the houses having water closets and baths.

The excretal and dry refuse was removed by the Council's employees in a satisfactory manner.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supplied to the town was of the usual good quality. All the Cowsheds have impervious floors, are well drained, lighted and ventilated. They were kept clean and whitewashed regularly and all had a good water supply from the town's mains.

No case of Infectious Disease was traced to the Milk Supply.

OTHER FOODS.

The general food supply of the town was satisfactory. The premises where food was prepared and sold were kept in good condition.

No prosecutions took place under the Food and Drugs Act.

There is one Bakehouse in the town. It is lined with white glazed tiles. It was found in a clean and satisfactory condition at each inspection.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are two Slaughter-houses in Amble. They are kept clean and whitewashed. Each has a good supply of water laid on.

No carcase or part of a carcase was destroyed for Tuberculosis.
There is no Public Abattoir.

	1914.	Jan., 1926.	Dec., 1926.
Registered	3	2	2
Licensed	0	0	0
Total ...	3	2	2

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply during 1926 was of the usual good quality and abundant in quantity. The supply is constant.

The analysis of the water, with the analysts' report is as follow :
Total solid matter in solution dried at

	1913.	1909.
212 degs. F.	2.4500	2.2960
Chlorine existing as chlorides	1.539	2.336
Ammonia	0.012	0.010
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.002	0.003
Nitrogen existing as Nitrates	0.013	0.003
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80 deg. F.	Not determined.	do.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 mins. at 80 deg. F.	0.114	0.012
Lead and other poisonous metals	None.	None.
Hardness before boiling	Not determined.	do.
Hardness after boiling	Not determined.	do.
Appearance in 2ft. tube	Brownish turbidity.	
Smell when heated to 100 degs. F. ...	None.	None.
Microscopical exam. of sediment	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.

“ This water will be rather hard, though not to an objectionable extent. Organically it is fairly pure water and it is, in our opinion, suitable for drinking and general domestic use. The sample contained in suspension nearly a tenth of a grain per gallon of iron hydroxide and it is chiefly, if not entirely, this to which the turbidity of the water is due.”

The new reservoir containing one million gallons of water has been completed and is now in use.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The water carriage of sewerage in the town discharges its sewage by a main outfall sewer into the harbour and by a small outfall sewer into the tidal gut.

It was satisfactory during the year. Eleven blocked drains required attention and new drains were laid to the water closets which replaced the ash closets and privy middens and to the new houses,

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The insanitary condition of the Amble Gut, a tidal gut emptying into the River *Coquet*, which has been pointed out in previous reports, still remains unabated.

LODGING-HOUSES.

One lodging-house is registered in the district. It has been found clean and tidy at each inspection. No cases of infectious disease occurred in it during the year.

SCHOOLS.

There are five Elementary Schools in the Urban District. All are in a sanitary condition, with an efficient supply of water. No school closure was necessary for infectious disease, either in 1926 or in the previous five years.

8.—Public Health Staff.

1.—Medical Officer of Health, part time, half salary from the County Council.

2.—Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, whole time officer.

9.—Housing.

Two new houses were completed in 1926 and occupied. These are the only houses which have been built during the year.

Owing chiefly to the coal dispute no initiative was shown in building and shortage in the receipt of rents interfered with the attending to of ordinary repairs.

10.—Port Sanitation.

The vessels arriving at Warkworth Harbour were regularly inspected during the year. In 1926, 192 vessels arrived in the harbour as compared with 383 in 1925. The total tonnage was 89,143, being 107,535 less tonnage than in 1925.

Form A.—Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the year 1926 :

	Number.	Tonnage.
Total Foreign Vessels	69	53,206
Total Coastwise	123	35,937
Total	192	89,143

Number inspected by M.O.H., 26.

Number inspected by Sanitary Inspector, 107.

The ships were found in a satisfactory condition.

Form B.—250 rats were destroyed in 1926.

Form C.—No vessels were plague infected.

No vessels were plague suspected.

No vessels were from infected ports.

All the rats destroyed were brown rats; they were killed by poison ("Dalroc"); the bodies were not examined macroscopically, microscopically or bacteriologically for disease.

One case of Smallpox was on board one of the ships entering the Harbour. The particulars and action taken are recorded earlier in this report. All cases of sickness are immediately investigated. The town has a Smallpox Isolation Hospital of nominally four beds, but which can take in double that number in an emergency. Other cases of sickness have to be treated on board as there are no facilities in the town for them. If an infectious disease is discovered on board a ship the crew are not allowed ashore until the ship and they are free from infection. Ships in quarantine have a station allotted to them.

No deaths occurred on board any of the ships in 1926.

The Council have a portable steam disinfector whereby clothing and bedding can be disinfected and disinfested.

11.—Factories and Workshops.

There are 12 factories and 27 workshops in the district. Four children and young persons were examined in 1926 and none were rejected.

The various premises were kept in a sanitary condition. No written notice was served and no prosecutions were instituted. No nuisances required abatement and there were no offences under the Factories and Workshops Act.

The following are registered workshops :

Dressmaking and Millinery	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tailoring	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Trades such as Blacksmiths, Plumbers, Joiners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	18

There are no workplaces and no outworkers.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, please accept my thanks for your courtesy and consideration to me throughout the year.

I wish also to thank your Surveyor, Mr. Burton, for the efficient and ready help he has always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES ANDERSON LOUGHRIDGE.

THE ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR OF AMBLE
For the Year 1926.

To Dr. J. A. Loughridge, M.B., Ch.B.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to present my report of the Sanitary Administration of the Amble Urban District for the year 1926, together with the tabular statements required.

HOUSING.

The two houses on the Council's Housing Estate mentioned as being unfinished at the end of the previous year were completed and occupied in the early part of 1926.

The roads on the estate and also the main roads on three sides of the estate have been completed and surfaced with tarmacadam.

Owing to the coal trade dispute and the uncertain outlook, building by private enterprise ceased until the latter part of the year, when plans were approved by the Council for the conversion of a very large house, which had been partly burned down, into two self-contained houses of four and five rooms and two tenements of four rooms each.

Plans were also approved for the erection of two self-contained houses of five rooms each at the end of an existing row of houses and also for four parlour type houses of 950 sup. feet floor area, which will rank for the Exchequer and the Local Authority grant.

Regarding the repair and renovation of existing houses, the work effected has been very small indeed. Many landlords have not received any rent during the whole period of the coal dispute and, under these circumstances, they could not be expected to spend money on improving their property. Some owners have had to draw on their savings to pay the rates.

The greater portion of the houses built in recent years have been for owner-occupiers and there is still a great need for a small type of house which could be let at a rental within the means of the lower paid and casual workers,

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Thirteen ash closets and one privy midden have been abolished during the year and in each case water closets have been substituted in lieu thereof and, in connection with the widening of the roadway in Albert Street, dilapidated coal houses and an open ashpit have been demolished and an area of 45 square yards added to the roadway.

Five defective water closets have been repaired, 15 ashbins have been provided and 2 ashbins replaced.

The number of water closets in the district at the end of the year is 511, ash closets 397 and privy middens 19.

DRAINAGE.

Eleven nuisances arising from blacked drains have been abated and three defective drains have been taken up and relaid.

New drains were laid to the 14 water closets which were substituted for the ash closets and privy abolished.

SEWERS.

No flooding has been experienced from heavy rainfalls nor high tides, although on two occasions the sewers have been charged to their full capacity and on the point of overflowing.

It is fifty years since the existing sewer was laid. It is not adequate for present-day requirements and the Council should immediately take up the question of providing a new sewerage scheme for the whole district.

DISINFECTION.

Five houses have been disinfected owing to cases of infectious diseases: Smallpox (3), Tuberculosis (2).

The quarters of the crew of a steamer which arrived at the port with a case of Smallpox on board were also disinfected.

Infected bedding and clothing from three houses and a ship were disinfected in the Council's "Newman" portable steam disinfecter.

SHIPPING.

Owing to the coal trade dispute the volume of shipping was lower than in previous years. The increase in the number of coastwise fishing vessels entering the port was due to trawlers arriving in search of outcrop coal for bunkers.

INWARDS.									
Foreign.						Number.			Tonnage.
Steamers	...	...	...	...	...	69	...	...	53,206
Motor	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
Sailing	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
Fishing	...	...	...	...	...		...	...
						69	...	...	53,206
Coastwise.									
Steamers	...	...	...	...	...	53	...	...	32,618
Motor	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	49
Sailing	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	60
Fishing	...	...	...	...	...	68	...	...	3,210
						123	...	...	35,937
Total Foreign and Coastwise						192	...	...	89,143

One hundred and seven vessels were inspected, of which 45 were British vessels from foreign ports, 23 were British vessels from home ports, 28 were foreign vessels from British ports and 11 were foreign vessels from foreign ports.

One vessel arrived with a case of Smallpox on board and it was immediately put into quarantine. The patient was removed to hospital, the whole of the members of the crew were vaccinated and the quarters of the crew thoroughly disinfected. The infected clothing and bedding was disinfected in the Council's "Newman" portable steam disinfector. It is satisfactory to note that no other member of the crew contracted the disease and that no further cases arrived at the port during the year.

The usual steps have been taken to exterminate rats in the vicinity of the docks and other parts of the Urban District. The rats destroyed were all brown rats. It is estimated that at least 250 rats would be exterminated. No rats were found on any of the vessels entering the port.

SCAVENGING.

The Council continue to carry out the removal of house refuse by direct labour and their workmen make bi-weekly collections of house refuse. The refuse is tipped in a disused quarry half a mile from the town and precautions are taken from time to time to prevent rats from harbouring amongst the refuse.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The number of persons registered is as hereunder :

Wholesale purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	4
Retail purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	10
Cowkeepers and Dairymen	...	...	...	...	7
Number of cows kept (approximately)	...	...	...	...	90

Copies of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and posters for the information of employees have been handed to all cowkeepers and dairymen in the district and notices for improvements under Sections 13 and 14 to be carried out within eighteen months have been served where considered necessary.

The whole of the dairy farms in the district are supplied with water from the town mains and automatic self-filling troughs have been installed at two farms during the year.

The conditions under which milk was kept for sale in a shop in the district was considered unsatisfactory and the retailer has now provided a separate milk store, well lighted and with external ventilation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 12 factories and 27 workshops in the district, some of which have been closed during the greater part of the year. They have all been kept in a satisfactory condition and no notices have been served.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are two registered slaughter-houses in the town. They are both provided with water from the town mains and are regularly limewashed and kept in a cleanly condition. Regular inspections have been made during the hours of slaughtering and no diseased carcasses have been found.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been adequate for all domestic and industrial purposes. The new one million gallons ferro-concrete service reservoir at Morwick was completed and the water turned on to the town during the month of September, 1926. The storage has thereby been increased to two million gallons and, apart from the greater security in the event of a dry summer, the additional reservoir avoids any interruption of the supply during the cleansing periods.

I am, Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. BURTON.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT: Year ending December 31st, 1926.

District : **AMBLE.**

Population : 4,851.

Inspector : **WM. BURTON.**

		No. of Inspections during year.	No. of Defects or Contraventions By-laws	No. outstanding from previous year.	Total	Ave. remedied after letter or interview.	No. of Defects remedied there- after.	No. of Statutory Notices served.	Defects remedied there- after.	In progress or being dealt with.	Legal Proceedings.
Housing.	Structural Defects ...	35	10	40	50	24					
	Dampness ...	16	4	1	5	4				1	
	Not reasonably Fit for Habitation ...	38	6		6	5				1	
	Defective Spouting ...	14	4	9	13	4			6		
	Overcrowding ...	10		1	1		1				
	Nuisances ...	7	2		2	2					
Water Supply.	Insufficient ...	Nil									
	Unsatisfactory ...	Nil									
Drainage	Foul ...	29	11		11	11					
	Untrapped or Defective ...	10	3		3	3					
	Insufficient ...	Nil									
Sanitary Conveniences	Structural Defects ...	18	5	4	9	5					
	Insufficient ...	Nil									
	Foul ...	15	7		7	7					
Sanitary Conveniences	Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops...	50	5					5			
	Slaughter Houses ...	184									
	Tents, Vans, &c. ...	18									
	Offensive Trades ...	Nil									
	Workshops and Workplaces ...	87									
	Keeping of Animals ...	18									
	Insanitary Ashpits and Receptacles ...	17	2		2	2					
	Ashpits improperly used ...	Nil									
	Offensive accumulations ...	Nil									
	Smoke Nuisances ...	Nil									
	Petrol Stores ...	33	1		1	1					
	Total	599	60	55	115	68	1	5	6	2	

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED :—

	District : AMBLE. Inspector : WM. BURTON. Year 1926.			After Letter or Interview	After Informal Notice.	After Statutory Notice	Total.
Sanitary Conveniences.	Privies abolished	...	...	14			14
	Privies repaired	...	...	Nil			Nil
	Privy Ashpits abolished	...		1			1
	Privy Ashpits Roofed or Repaired			Nil			Nil
	Pail Closets abolished	...		Nil			Nil
	Water Closets provided	...		14			14
	Water Closets repaired	...		5			5
	Sanitary Bins provided...	...		15			15
	Sanitary Bins renewed	...	...	2			2
Drainage.	New Drains constructed	...		15			15
	Drains repaired or reconstructed			3			3
	Additional Gullies provided	...		Nil			Nil
	Old Gullies replaced	...	...	4			4
	Scullery Sinks provided	...		Nil			Nil
	Scullery Waste-pipes repaired	...		Nil			Nil
	Scullery Waste-pipes trapped	...		Nil			Nil
	Yards repaired or reconstructed...			Nil			Nil
Water Supply.	Sources closed or discontinued—Nil.			No. of houses affected—Nil.			
	New service provided—Nil.			No. of houses affected—Nil.			

RIVERS POLLUTION :

Cases Detected	...	...	Nil.	Particulars	...	...	Nil.
Remedied	...	...	Nil.	Do.	...	...	Nil.
S.D Works Provided	...		Nil.	Do.	...	...	Nil.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Inspector: WM. BURTON. Year 1926.		Surrendered.	Seized.	Legal Proceedings.
1. Beef (home-killed).	Stones.			
2. Beef (imported).	"			
3. Mutton (home-killed).	"			
4. Mutton (imported).	"			
5. Pork.	"			
6. Game.	Lbs.			
7. Poultry.	"			
8. Fish.	"			
9. Fruit.	"			
10. Canned Goods.	Tins or cases.	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Bacon.	Lbs.			
12. Cheese.	"			
13. Butter.	"			
14. Lard.	"			
15. Other Foods.				
.....				
.....				
.....				
.....				

REMARKS (with result of any consequent legal proceedings):

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

No.	Samples taken.	Analysis.	Remarks as to action taken and result.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

District : **Amble Urban Council.**

Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925.

(Tabular Statement as required by section 31.)

Inspector: WM. BURTON.		Total	SUB-DISTRICTS.				
1	Number of dwelling-houses inspected ...	28					
2	Number considered "unfit for habitation" ...						
3	Complaints as to { (a) Householders ...	3					
4	"unfitness" by { (b) Parish Councils ...						
5	Closing { No. of "Representations to L.A." ...						
6	Orders { No. of Orders made... ..						
7	{ No. determined after repair ...						
8	No. of { (a) After "Informal Notice" ...	3					
9	houses { (b) After Statutory Notice ...						
10	made fit for { (c) After Closing Order made						
11	habitation { (d) By L.A. in default of owner						
12	No. of { (a) After notice						
13	houses closed { (b) Without "Notice"						
14	No. of { (a) Under "Demolition Orders"						
15	houses demolished { (b) Voluntarily by owners						

General character of defects:

Dampness of Walls, Defective Roofs, Defective Floors, Fireplaces.

Housing Act, 1925.	(a) No. of "Representations" as to obstructive buildings ...	Nil					
	(b) No. of such buildings demolished ...	Nil					
	(c) Representations as to Unhealthy areas ..	Nil					

